FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that those Government servants who opted for sterilisation were granted one increment extra and were eligible to draw allowances on that amount;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Fourth Pay Commission has doubled the amount of Special Pay in all other cases, except that of Voluntary sterilisation cases;

(c) if so, what steps Government have taken to remove the hardships caused to such Government servants; and

(d) whether it would not affect adversely the family planning measures sponsored by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) to (d) The Government employees who opt for sterilisation are granted 'personal pay' equal to the amount of next increment due.

As the incentive granted to Government employees is in the nature of 'personal pay' and not 'special pay', the recommendations of the Fourth Central Pay Commission regarding special pay are not relevant in this regard.

The incentive of personal pay equal to the amount of next increment due would continue to be available to Central Government employees who opt for sterilisation even in the revised scales of pay.

Implementation of recommendations of Pay Commission

1995. PROF. (MRS.) ASIMA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an incumbent drawing pre-revised pay @ Rs. 725 p.m. in the scale of Rs 425—800 on fixation in the scale of Rs. 1400—2800 is entitled to a basic pay of Rs. 2150 p.m.;

(b) whether it is also a fact that an incumbent drawing the same pay in the scale of Rs. 550—900 on fixation in the revised scale of Rs. 1640—2900 is entitled to a basic pay of Rs. 2120 p.m. with effect from the same date; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to remove the disparity in order to see that a person in a higher scale may not draw less from the incumbent in a lower scale?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) and (b) The position stated is correct except that revised scale is Rs. 1400—2600 and not Rs. 1400—2800.

(c) Initial fixation of pay of the two incumbents drawing pay in different pay scales, which are not comparable, is to be done under the provision of Central Civil Service (Revised Pay) Rules, 1986. There is thus no disparity involved.

Issue of passports by the Regional Passport Offices

1996. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how many applications for the issue of passports have been received since 1st January, 1984 in all the regional passport offices in the country specially in Patna;

(b) how many applications have been rejected or are pending and how many passports have been issued; and

(c) how long it takes on an average to issue a passport?